



DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC

Docket No. CP14-17-000

Notice of Availability of the
Environmental Assessment for the Proposed
East Side Expansion Project

The staff of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC or Commission) has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) for the East Side Expansion Project, proposed by Columbia Gas Transmission, LLC (Columbia) in the above-referenced docket. Columbia requests authorization to install a total of about 19.1 miles of 20- and 26-inch-diameter pipeline loop¹, and to modify and upgrade several aboveground facilities in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, New York, and Maryland in order to provide 312,000 dekatherms per day of firm natural gas transportation service to growing mid-Atlantic markets.

The EA assesses the potential environmental effects of the construction and operation of the East Side Expansion Project in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The FERC staff concludes that approval of the proposed project, with appropriate mitigating measures, would not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.

The United States Army Corps of Engineers participated as a cooperating agency in the preparation of the EA. Cooperating agencies have jurisdiction by law or special expertise with respect to resources potentially affected by the proposal and participate in the NEPA analysis.

The proposed East Side Expansion Project includes the following:

- construction of about 9.6 miles of 20-inch-diameter pipeline loop in Gloucester County, New Jersey (Line 10345 Loop);
- construction of about 9.5 miles of 26-inch-diameter pipeline loop in Chester County, Pennsylvania (Line 1278 Loop);

¹ A loop is a segment of pipe that is usually installed adjacent to an existing pipeline and connected to it at both ends. The loop allows more gas to be moved through the system.

- abandonment of existing compressors and installation of new compression at the Milford Compressor Station in Pike County, Pennsylvania, and at the Easton Compressor Station in Northampton County, Pennsylvania;
- modifications to the Eagle Compressor Station in Chester County, Pennsylvania, and the Rutledge Compressor Station in Hartford County, Maryland; and
- modification of the Pennsburg meter and regulation (M&R) Station and the Quakertown M&R Station in Bucks County, Pennsylvania, and the Wagoner M&R Station in Orange County, New York.

The FERC staff mailed copies of the EA to federal, state, and local government representatives and agencies; elected officials; environmental and public interest groups; Native American tribes; potentially affected landowners and other interested individuals and groups; newspapers and libraries in the project area; and parties to this proceeding. In addition, the EA is available for public viewing on the FERC's website (www.ferc.gov) using the eLibrary link. A limited number of copies of the EA are available for distribution and public inspection at:

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
Public Reference Room
888 First Street NE, Room 2A
Washington, DC 20426
(202) 502-8371

Any person wishing to comment on the EA may do so. Your comments should focus on the potential environmental effects, reasonable alternatives, and measures to avoid or lessen environmental impacts. The more specific your comments, the more useful they will be. To ensure that the Commission has the opportunity to consider your comments prior to making its decision on this project, it is important that we receive your comments in Washington, DC on or before **September 29, 2014**.

For your convenience, there are three methods you can use to file your comments with the Commission. In all instances, please reference the project docket number (CP14-17-000) with your submission. The Commission encourages electronic filing of comments and has expert staff available to assist you at 202-502-8258 or efiling@ferc.gov.

- (1) You can file your comments electronically using the [eComment](#) feature located on the Commission's website (www.ferc.gov) under the link to

[Documents and Filings](#). This is an easy method for submitting brief, text-only comments on a project;

- (2) You can also file your comments electronically using the [eFiling](#) feature on the Commission's website (www.ferc.gov) under the link to [Documents and Filings](#). With eFiling, you can provide comments in a variety of formats by attaching them as a file with your submission. New eFiling users must first create an account by clicking on “[eRegister](#).” You must select the type of filing you are making. If you are filing a comment on a particular project, please select “Comment on a Filing”; or
- (3) You can file a paper copy of your comments by mailing them to the following address:

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street NE, Room 1A
Washington, DC 20426

Any person seeking to become a party to the proceeding must file a motion to intervene pursuant to Rule 214 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedures (18 CFR 385.214).² Only intervenors have the right to seek rehearing of the Commission's decision. The Commission grants affected landowners and others with environmental concerns intervenor status upon showing good cause by stating that they have a clear and direct interest in this proceeding which no other party can adequately represent. **Simply filing environmental comments will not give you intervenor status, but you do not need intervenor status to have your comments considered.**

Additional information about the project is available from the Commission's Office of External Affairs, at **(866) 208-FERC**, or on the FERC website (www.ferc.gov) using the eLibrary link. Click on the eLibrary link, click on “General Search,” and enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the Docket Number field (i.e., CP14-17). Be sure you have selected an appropriate date range. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at FercOnlineSupport@ferc.gov or toll free at (866) 208-3676, or for TTY, contact (202) 502-8659. The eLibrary link also provides access to the texts of formal documents issued by the Commission, such as orders, notices, and rulemakings.

² See the previous discussion on the methods for filing comments.

In addition, the Commission offers a free service called eSubscription that allows you to keep track of all formal issuances and submittals in specific dockets. This can reduce the amount of time you spend researching proceedings by automatically providing you with notification of these filings, document summaries, and direct links to the documents. Go to www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp.

Dated: August 29, 2014.

Kimberly D. Bose,
Secretary.

[FR Doc. 2014-21205 Filed 09/05/2014 at 8:45 am; Publication Date: 09/08/2014]